

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 WRD-01 EUR-12

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O 191336Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1561

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4146

DEPT FOR A/SY, RCO/ARA, WRDCO, A/OC; PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AR, ACOM

SUBJ: INTERCEPT OF DIPLOMATIC POUCH TRANSPORT JUNE 13

REF: BA 4059

1. ON JUNE 19 SECURITY OFFICER AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ADVISED RSO OF THE FOLLOWING: HE STATED THAT HIS SOURCE OF INFORMATION WAS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ITALIAN EMBASSY. THE VEHICLE WHICH WAS ATTACKED ON JUNE 13 WAS A TAXI WHICH HAD BEEN HIRED BY ALITALIA AIRLINES TO TRANSPORT THE COURIER MATERIAL TO THE AIRPORT. ONE OF THE TWO OCCUPANTS OF THE VEHICLE WAS AN ALITALIA EMPLOYEE WHO WAS RETURNING TO ROME. THE DIPLOMATIC POUCHES OF THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 32 KILOS. THE MATERIAL WHICH HAD BEEN RECOVERED IN THE AUSTRALIAN POUCH ON JUNE 16 BELONGING TO THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 5 KILOS. IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WENT TO THE AREA WHERE THE AUSTRALIAN POUCH WAS FOUND AND BY SEARCHING IN THE GENERAL VICINITY LOCATED SOME OF THE MISSING ITALIAN POUCH MATERIAL. MUCH OF THE ITALIAN POUCH MATERIAL WAS CLASSIFIED DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION. THE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WAS BEING TRANSPORTED ON ALITALIA WITHOUT A COURIER SINCE IT IS A NATIONAL AIRLINE. THE ITALIANS WERE QUITE WORRIED OVER THE KNOWN MISSING CLASSIFIED MATERIAL SINCE IT WAS VERY SENSITIVE. IT WAS THE OPINION OF THE

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AUSTRALIAN SECURITY OFFICER THAT AS A RESULT OF THE CLASSIFIED

INFORMATION NOT BEING RECOVERED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE ATTACK ON THE POUCH TRANSPORT WAS NOT ROBBERY OF PERSONAL MAIL IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MONEY BUT THAT IT WAS AN ACTION TO PENETRATE THE ITALIAN CLASSIFIED POUCH. AUSTRALIAN SECURITY OFFICER FURTHER ADVISED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THE ATTACK HAD BEEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT LOPEZ REGA WAS IN ROME ON OR ABOUT JUNE 13 AND THAT THE PENETRATION OF THE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL COULD HAVE BEEN EITHER A RIGHT WING OR A LEFT WING ACTIVITY IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE COMMENTS CONCERNING LOPEZ REGA OR IF ITEMS WERE BEING SHIPPED TO HIM. AUSTRALIAN SECURITY OFFICER STATED THAT THIS WAS ONLY A HYPOTHESIS ON HIS PART AND THERE IS NO ACTUAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THIS PREMISE.
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